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POTATO STOCKS

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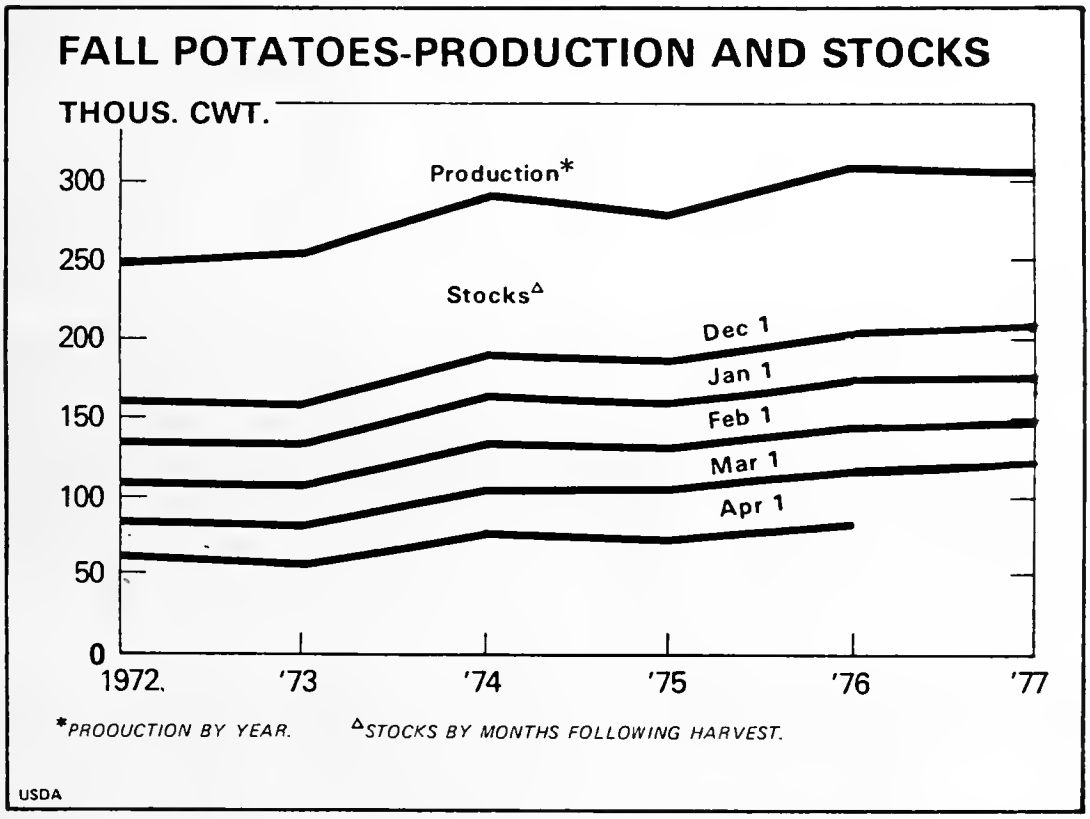
MARCH 1 POTATO STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

An estimated 121.3 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on March 1, 1978. This is 6 percent above a year earlier and 17 percent more than in 1976.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The eight Eastern States had 18.8 million cwt. in storage, up 19 percent from a year earlier. Maine's stocks of 15.2 million cwt. compare with 11.8 million cwt. in 1977. New York and Pennsylvania continue to show stocks below last year's level. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 21.8 million cwt., 44 percent above a year ago. Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin continue to show stocks significantly greater than last year. The eight Western States had 80.6 million cwt. in storage, down 3 percent from 1977, due mostly to significant reductions in Washington. Stocks in Idaho were 46.5 million cwt., 3 percent above last year.

Disappearance of the 1977 fall crop to March 1, 1978 was 177.9 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), a decrease of 5 percent from a year ago.

The quantity of potatoes processed to March 1, 1978 in the seven major States is 70.4 million cwt., 6 percent less than last year.



For information call: (202) 447-7720

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION; AND DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1967-77 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS				
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1
	1,000 CWT					
1967	243,849	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,465	
1968	234,832	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	252,561	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	267,827	175,145	150,030	122,230	96,780	
1971 1/	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485	
1972 2/	249,320	158,565	134,420	107,310	83,380	58,250
1973	254,379	157,837	133,665	106,615	81,165	55,870
1974	289,342	187,935	163,095	133,425	104,116	75,905
1975	278,391	185,965	159,140	131,685	104,050	71,640
1976	307,427	201,980	174,775	143,925	114,140	81,875
1977	304,427	207,030	178,215	149,305	121,275	

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR NEW YORK-LONG ISLAND, WISCONSIN AND WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.
2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1976 AND 1977 CROP 2/

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	ENTIRE SEASON
		1,000 CWT					
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1976-77	18,125	24,215	30,070	36,380	43,575	68,030
	1977-78	16,675	22,200	27,305	32,870		
MAINE 3/	1976-77	2,575	3,380	4,235	5,105	6,055	7,275
	1977-78	2,315	3,020	3,965	4,980		
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1976-77	16,005	19,550	23,435	27,960	32,190	45,535
	1977-78	14,210	17,775	21,865	26,400		
OTHER STATES 4/	1976-77	2,385	3,355	4,470	5,550	6,780	7,600
	1977-78	3,300	4,210	5,355	6,185		
TOTAL	1976-77	39,090	50,500	62,210	74,995	88,600	128,440
	1977-78	36,500	47,205	58,490	70,435		

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICHIGAN OR MINNESOTA.
2/ 1976-77 REVISED.
3/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.
4/ MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON MARCH 1, 1977 AND MARCH 1, 1978

STATE	CROP OF 1976		CROP OF 1977	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1977	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1978
	1,000 CWT			
CALIF	6,475	1,800	5,950	2,050
COLO	9,257	3,300	9,490	3,250
CONN	494	1/	466	1/
IDAHO	88,455	45,000	88,200	46,500
IND	1,530	70	1,128	65
MAINE	27,440	11,800	28,320	15,200
MASS	770	105	888	105
MICH	8,330	2,300	8,800	2,500
MINN	11,055	4,000	12,960	5,700
MONT	1,806	1,600	2,016	1,610
NEBR	1,274	460	1,380	550
N H	104	1/	71	1/
N Y - L I	7,409	670	6,726	600
- UPSTATE	6,101	1,200	5,356	1,200
N DAK	16,940	5,100	20,800	3/8,800
OHIO	2,933	300	2,744	290
OREG	28,913	10,500	25,774	10,800
PA	7,140	1,900	6,375	1,600
R I	1,050	1/	943	1/
S DAK	286	65	1,062	305
UTAH	1,248	400	1,296	310
VT	226	1/	235	1/
WASH	55,800	20,100	48,685	15,900
WIS	15,370	2,800	18,038	3,600
WYO	1,701	550	1,474	210
OTHER STS		120		130
24 STATE TOTAL	302,107	114,140	299,177	121,275
NEV	5,320	2/	5,250	2/
TOTAL 25 FALL STS	307,427		304,427	

1/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN "OTHER STATES".
2/ NOT INCLUDED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.
3/ USERS ARE CAUTIONED THAT THE STOCKS ESTIMATE FOR NORTH DAKOTA MAY BE LESS RELIABLE THAN FOR THE OTHER STATES DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF NORTH DAKOTA STORAGE OPERATORS WHO REFUSED TO REPORT STOCKS ON THE MARCH 1978 INQUIRY.

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POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

The potato stocks quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. A total of 129 samples selected on a random basis were placed in storages at harvest time. The final report for this season will be issued next month showing the cumulative average grade and weight loss for the potatoes removed from storage at the time of shipment.

At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected this year for processing potatoes only. Since few Red type potatoes are used for processing, data are not published for this type.

Samples recovered before Marchl, 1978 indicate that the quality of thc white varieties at harvest was slightly lower this year, but that the after storage quality was noticeably higher than for the comparable date a year earlier. The quality of the Russet varieties was higher than a year earlier at harvest and also for those removed from storage by March 1, 1978. The decline in No. 1 grade (including B's) for samples removed from storage was 14 percent (12 points) and 12 percent (10 points) for Russet varieties. This compares with a 26 percent decline for white varieties and a 22 percent decline for Russet varieties during the same period a year earlier. The percent graded as culls after storage is below a year ago for both varieties. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is the same as last year.

Final data for the 1976-77 storage season are also provided and show the average grade at harvest and after storage for all samples which were recovered from storage.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1977-78
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

TYPE	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S AFTER STORAGE 1/	WEIGHT LOSS
	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE		
	PERCENT							
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MARCH 1, 1978 2/							
WHITE	87	75	8	11	5	14	6	4
RUSSET	86	76	6	12	8	12	6	4
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MARCH 1, 1977 2/							
WHITE	88	65	7	14	5	21	9	5
RUSSET	81	63	11	14	8	23	5	3
	ALL SAMPLES 1976-77 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL							
WHITE	87	68	7	14	6	18	9	7
RUSSET	85	70	8	12	7	18	6	8

1/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U. S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA: RED AND WHITE VARIETIES - 1½ - 2¼ INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES - UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

2/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.